

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication of allowability for claims 17 and 19, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10 – 15, 18, 20, and 21.

Claims 22 – 28 are canceled.

Claims 10 and 11 are amended to place them in independent format, incorporating all of the limitations of original base claim 8. Claims 10 and 11, as well as dependent claims 12 – 14 and 20, should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 18. Claim 18 is canceled. Claim 8 and dependent claims 9, 15, 16, and 21 should now be in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 8, 9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Tuckey, US Patent 6,213,726, is rendered moot by the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of claim 18 into claim 8.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

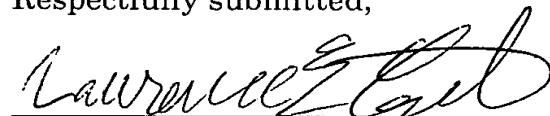
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.49129).

Respectfully submitted,

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